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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: KANEDA, et al.

Filed: February 12, 2002

For: A SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF  
STORAGE APPARATUS

**CLAIM FOR PRIORITY**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 12, 2002

Sir:

Under the provisions of 35 USC §119 AND 37 CFR § 1.55, Applicants hereby  
claim the right of priority based on Patent Application No. 2001-361908 filed in Japan on  
November 28, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

  
Carl I. Brundidge  
Registration No. 29,621

1300 North Seventeenth Street  
Suite 1800  
Arlington, VA 22209  
Tel.: 703-312-6600  
Fax: 703-312-6666  
CIB/alb